

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

Capital School District Board Room
198 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904
August 6, 2015
2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Linda Brown, Jennifer Burton, Stephanie DeWitt, Nelia Dolan, Laura Glass, Darren Guido, David Kohan, Rosaria Macera, Byron Murphy, Mary Pinkston and Stephanie Smith

Members Absent: Diane Albanese, Amber Augustus, Darlene O'Neill, Cristy Greaves and Sue Smith

Others Present: Chris Kenton; PSB Executive Director, Monty Gerhart; Wilmington University, Stephanie LoBiondo; Wilmington University, Donna Johnson; State Board of Education, Donna Mitchell; Wilmington University, Karen Sundquist; Wilmington University

I. Opening

Call to Order: Mr. Murphy, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made to amend the order of the agenda and to move the discussion items to action items by Dr. Guido and Seconded by Ms. Burton to approve the August 6, 2015 agenda. *The motion carried* (11 Yes to 0 No's - Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Pinkston and Smith)

Approval of Minutes for June 4, 2015

A Motion was made by Ms. Brown and Seconded by Dr. Guido to approve the June 4, 2015 Minutes. *The motion carried* (11 Yes to 0 No's - Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Pinkston and Smith)

II. Public Comment

None

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Kenton allowed Linda Brown to share the exciting news that she had recently edited a personal finance book that was written by Dr. Michael Casson (former PSB member). The book is currently available for sale on Amazon.
- Dr. Stephanie Smith has changed jobs and will be returning to the position of Principal for Seaford Middle School.
- Members from Wilmington University will be discussing the School Counselor regulations this evening.
- The Executive Director held several conference calls with ETS and Lisa Hedrick, along with Angeline Rivello from the Department.
- Mr. Kenton met with a group from Teach for America to discuss a program relating to 1595.
- Mr. Kenton helped work a School Safety Conference during the month of July, working with over 1300 School Resource Officers.
- Mr. Kenton announced that the LCCC will be meeting monthly through December to work on exit performance assessments with our IHE's.
- Mr. Kenton met with Donna Johnson from the State Board, and Mr. Byron Murphy to discuss the upcoming agenda.

IV. Presentation

- A presentation was given by Ms. Stephanie LoBiondo from Wilmington University and Jennifer Davis from the Department of Education with discussions about the school counseling program at Wilmington University and the history of the regulations from the past years.
- A presentation on school counselor reform and Regulation 545 which encompasses K-12 school counselor programs and increasing the certification requirements for school counselors to be more aligned with national best practices in what's going on in the country.
- Ms. LoBiondo showed a timeline for regulation 545. She mentioned that the counselor preparation added mental health to their areas that started addressing the student's needs.
- American School Counselors Association works on research and best practices for school counselors.

V. Discussion Items

A. 1522 and 1545 – Elementary and Secondary School Counselor

- 27 credits were required to be a school counselor in the state and the courses have not changed since 1993. (One course was added in 2013)
- The Obama administration has called for an increase in rigor of school counselor preparation across the country. Nationally all of the higher education institutions are looking at increasing their rigor and requirements.
- 2013 was the only modification made to the regulation. The change was to add an ethics course and increase the credits from 27 to 30 credits for certification.
- Conversations were held about the proposed changes for certification in the regulation.
- School counselors put together lessons plans based on standards specific to school counseling.
- Some of the course descriptions are the same from 1993 to current.

B. 1560 – Art Teacher

- The Executive Director commented that 1560 was under the 5 year review cycle. The Licensure and Certification office shared that there were 0 issues with the regulation over the past five years. The State Board and PSB moved the regulation to publication. It was published for the month of July and received 0 public comments on it. 1560 will go in front of the State Board in a couple of weeks for final discussion, and then will be brought back to the PSB for final order in September.
- No additional questions or comments were made for 1560.

C. 1563 – Music Teacher

- The Executive Director mentioned that 1563 was under the five year review cycle. The Licensure and Certification office shared that there were 0 issues with the regulation over the past five years. The State Board and PSB moved the regulation to publication. It was published for the month of July and received 0 public comments on it. 1563 will go in front of the State Board in a couple of weeks for final discussion, and then will be brought back to the PSB for final order in September.
- No additional questions or comments were made for 1563.

D. 1564 – Physical Education Teacher

- The Executive Director mentioned that 1564 was under the five year review cycle. The Licensure and Certification office shared that there were 0 issues with the regulation over the past five years. The State Board and PSB moved the regulation to publication. It was published for the month of July and received 0 public comments on it. 1564 will go in front of the State Board in a couple of weeks for final discussion and then will be brought back to the PSB for final order in September.
- No additional questions or comments were made for 1564.

E. 1571 – Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities

- The Executive Director commented that 1571 was sent out for public comment during the month of July. Several e-mails were received from teachers asking to keep the grandfather clause in. Only 1 letter was received for public comment. The comments from the letter are:
 - a. Impact criteria statement. What is it going to cost? Are there any other fees involved to the school districts?
 - The Executive Director and Chair commented that there are no additional costs. If people are taking the Praxis only they may be required to do more course work. Discussions were held regarding the question that was brought forth.
 - b. Each of the category regulations for teachers of ESOL, Early Childhood, Exceptional Children, Gifted and Talented, Autism, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Visually Impaired have additional requirements for a certification each being effective immediately.

- Ms. Mitchell commented on it being effective immediately. The Executive Director commented that there was a little bit of push back on the regulations.
- Ms. Degnats commented that the pushback came from the educators who started in the program then the regulation changed. They felt that they were caught in a catch 22 because they thought they were done and then found out prior to graduation that additional requirements were now necessary. Some of them that never applied for some of the courses now had to hurry and apply for those courses that fell under this category and have it completed within the 18 month period to get their documentation in.
- The Executive Director commented that he feels that more conversations need to be held to determine if the cut scores need to be adjusted.
- Ms. Johnson from the State Board of Education commented that this is worth looking at and will bring to her Board's attention.
- ❖ A motion was made to make an amendment to the agenda to make Special Education Teacher and Students with Disabilities an action item to go to Publication by Ms. Burton and seconded by Ms. Pinkston. ***The motion carried*** (11 Yes to 0 No's - Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Pinkston and Smith)
- c. Typo in 4.1.2. The wording in the sentence should read: or on
 - The Board agreed the wording should change.
- d. 1571 - 5.1 - The Executive Director noted that a passed certification was recognized. Wanted to make sure the Board is still in agreement with the comments that were given at that time.
 - If the effective date changes, the date would change to July 1, 2016 and this would impact the entire regulation and would delay an additional year. The ILC teachers would be affected by any changes. Comments were noted that if the effective date moved to effective immediately, the changes would impact a lot of institutions. This is a grandfather clause.
 - Proposed changes to the regulation were noted: The definition was given in the October 2014 minutes: *Teacher spends more than 50% of teaching time working as primary or secondary/support teacher of students with disabilities.*
 - **The Chair read the non-substantive changes in the regulation: A teacher holding such a standards certificate issued by the department before July 1, 2016 shall be considered certified to instruct classes to students with disabilities.**
 - A typo needs to be corrected.
 - **Section 6.1 in section 4.0 of “this” regulation, not “his” regulation and add a period after disabilities.**

VI. **Action Items**

A. **1595 – Certification Program for Leaders in Education – For Publication**

- The Executive Director commented that the regulation was published and went through the State Board of Education. Public comments were made by the Secretary of Education. He had some concerns on the regulation. Several meetings have taken place with The Executive Director, Legal Counsel, State Board of Education, Shannon Holston, Secretary of Education and representatives from his office.
- Ms. Holston commented on some of the changes that were agreed upon with the Secretary of Education.
 - a. From the State Boards purview, they felt more comfortable on the renewal side looking at outcomes more like charter school process instead of being on the approval side.
 - b. Lessen the timeline around program approval.
 - c. Looking at the approval processes in 4.0 and the program renewal.
 - d. In 4.0 they went back to the original language in the regulation and on the approval side a clarification was made to the Standards Board, the processes stay the same. Eliminating the State Board of Education from the role. And in 4.2 if the LCCC and the Professional Standards Board are unanimous in the recommendations to approve 3 cohorts, then the Secretary of Education can approve for 3 cohorts based on their recommendation.
 - e. On the program renewal side, when the program is up for renewal, it would go to the Secretary of Education who would share the information with the State Board of Education, the State Board of Education would make a recommendation to the Secretary of Education for the final approval of the renewal of the application.

A motion was made to move 1595 to Publication by Dr. Guido and seconded by Mr. Kohan. ***The motion carried*** (11 Yes to 0 No's - Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Pinkston and Smith).

VII. **PSB Standing Committee**

A. **Licensure Certification Criteria**

- Will be meeting on August 26th. The discussion will be on exit performance assessments. Currently being offered through EdTPA/PPAT programs which have been approved. Will be looking at one to two 1595 programs for approval. Will be sharing the two regulations on school counselors to get their input.

B. **Professional Development and Associated Compensation Criteria Committee**

- None

VII. **Other** None

VIII. **Public Comment** None

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Dolan and seconded by Dr. Guido to adjourn the meeting. *The motion carried* (11 Yes to 0 No's - Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Pinkston and Smith). The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.